



City of San Diego



# Community Risk Reduction Division

Wildland Management and  
Enforcement Section



## Climate Impact in the WUI

- Weather Climate
  - Many years of Drought Conditions ( This is the State's worst 3 consecutive years of the drought)
  - Drier and Dense Vegetation
  - Canyons are sustained by annual rainfall
  - Increase in vegetation due to supplemental watering
  - "The perfect storm"



# Damage:

- Higher Temperatures (hotter fires)
- Extreme Fire Behavior
- \$ Billions (costly)
- More resources needed to stop FIRE (lack of rainfall)



# Damage:

Air Quality suffers (longer durations lack of rainfall)

The intense fires burn away trees and other important vegetation that without rain makes it impossible to grow back. However, invasive **weeds** grow in place of non-invasive vegetation (planted by nature). The **weeds** are highly flammable and burn easily **causing a vicious cycle.**

Rising cost of insurance (Community property insurance prices are impacted)



## **Mitigation-Is a fundamental driving piece for WME**

- Built into our program (Climate Impact)

Education (to Staff, Public and Private Sector partnerships)

Operations (the way Fire Fighting is Approached)

Wildland Management and Enforcement Section (Seeking to achieve voluntary compliance DS)

- \*Over 46,000 identified canyon rim homes in the COSD
- \* Door to Door Inspection and Home Risk Assessment Program
- \* RSG Program



## **Mitigation-Is a fundamental driving piece for WME**

### **● Steps Taken post 1985**

#### **\* We Combined Vegetation Management and Structure Enhancements**

Vegetation Management

(100 DS Enviro-Impact Neutral)

Structural Enhancement (Hardening)

Erosion and Structural Survival

**"IF YOUR HOUSE CAN'T IGNITE, IT CAN'T BURN" CIRCA 2017 "Jack Cohen"**

- Identified Low-Medium-High Risk Areas in the COSD
- The SDFD-Rescue has recognized that Fire in the WUI no longer has a season





# Why is Defensible Space So Important?

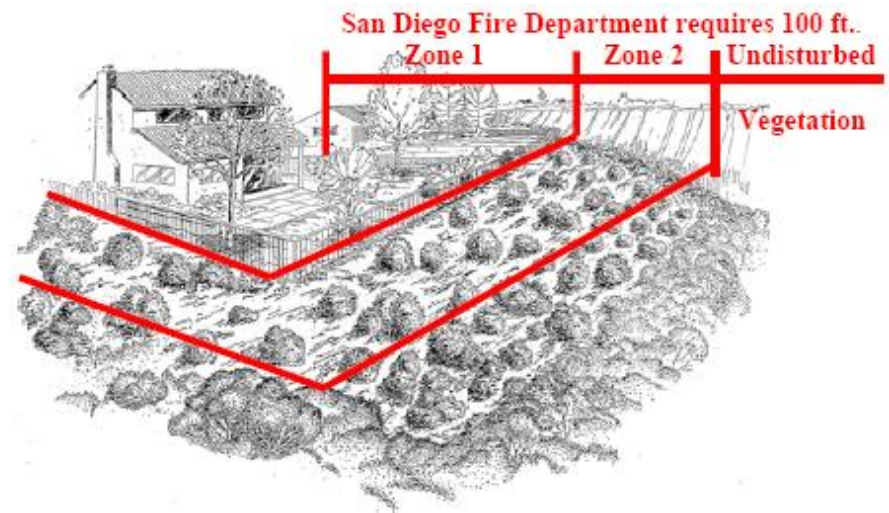
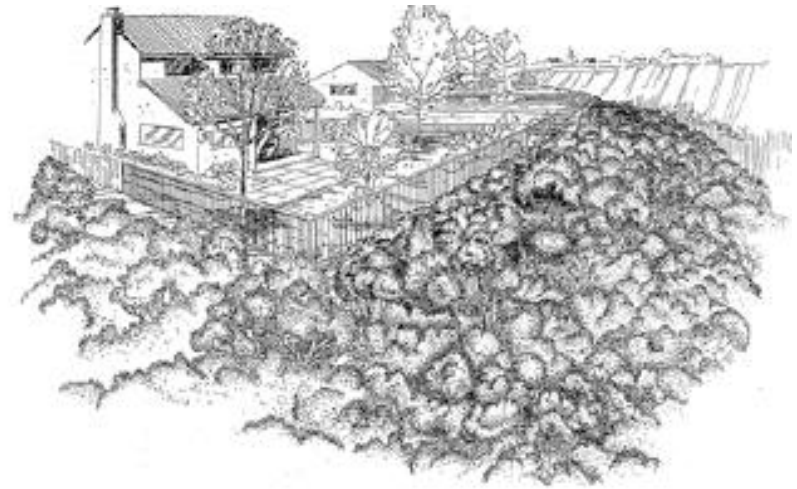
- Defensible Space allows the Fire Department **time** and **space** to fight a wildfire.





# What Is Defensible Space?

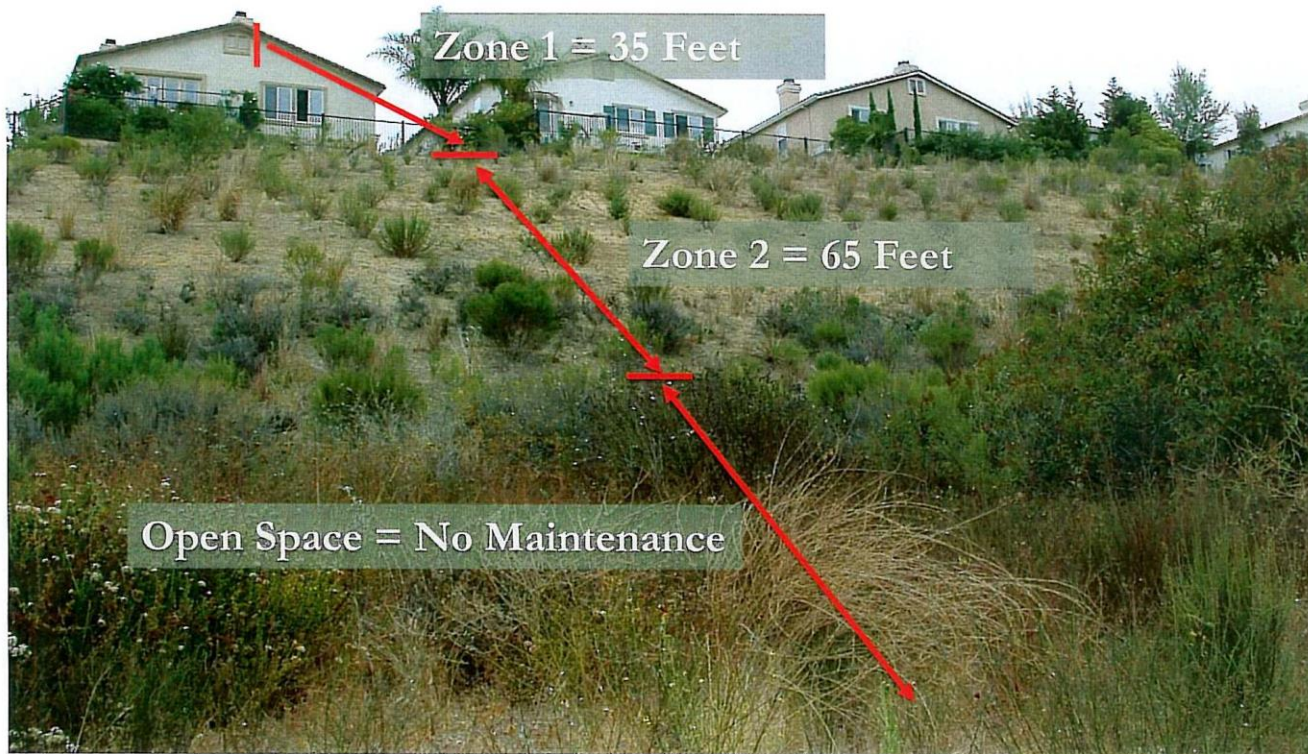
- **Defensible Space is: Selective thinning, trimming & pruning of native or naturalized vegetation.**
- **California Fire Code requires 100 ft of defensible space.**
- **Defensible Space is measured from the rear of the structure outward to the native or naturalized vegetation.**

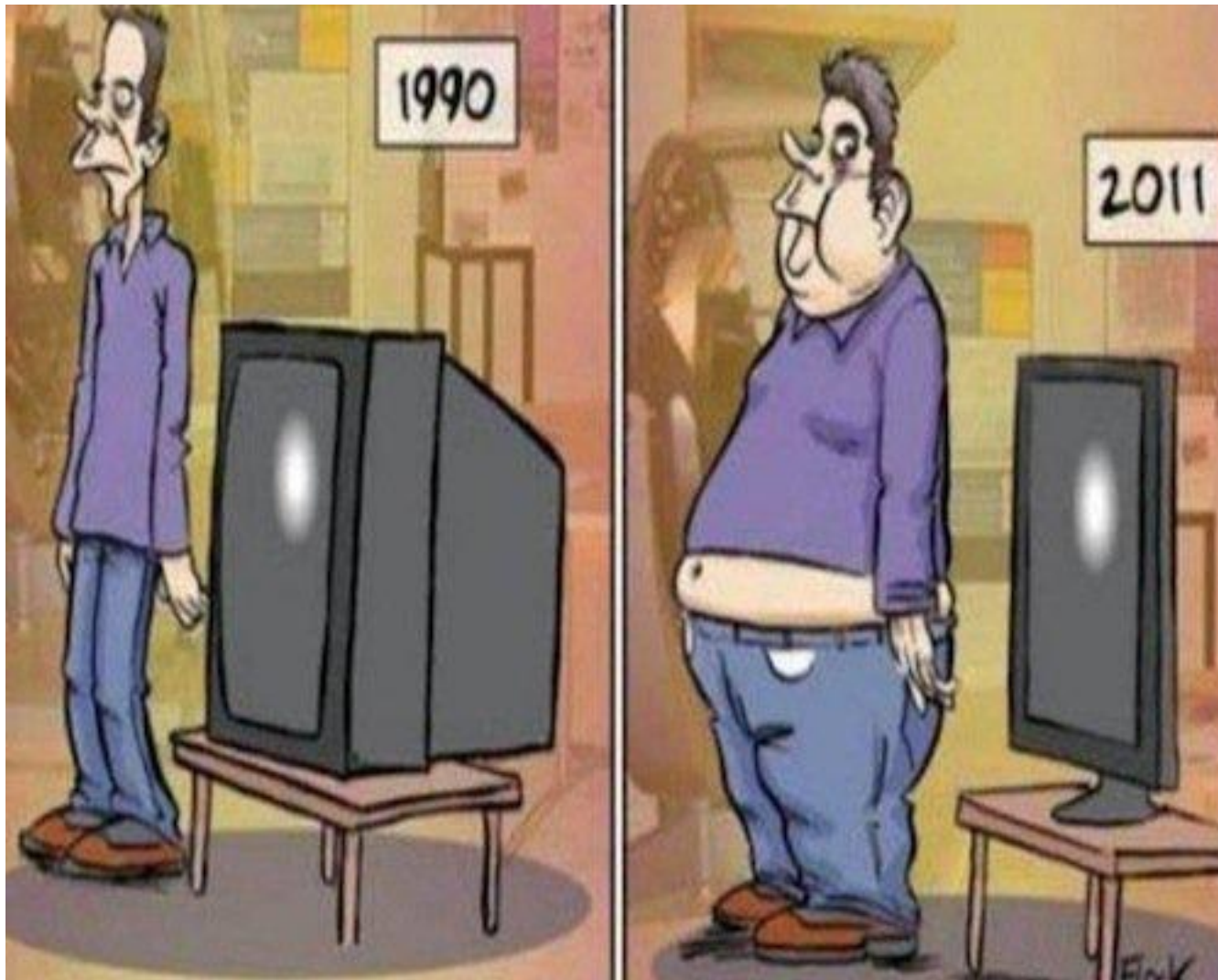






# Brush Management









City of San Diego



# Pro-Active Action Equals Reduced Wildfire Risk to **YOUR** Home and **YOUR** Community!



- Questions and Discussion